



RTCA in Idaho

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Idaho offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Idaho will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Eagle Community Trails** – The project goal is to create a community-wide trail system that serves as a hub for a regional trail system that connects trail users with community resources, adjacent public lands, private development, the Boise River Greenbelt and the Ridge to Rivers trail system. (Location: Eagle, Idaho)
- **Payette River Basin Water Trails** – The project goal is to create a system of flatwater to class III whitewater water trails including lakes, reservoirs and river reaches within the Payette River Basin. (Location: Payette, Gem, Valley and Boise Counties, Idaho)



Rafters on the Payette River

Recent Success Story

Pend D'Oreille Bay Trail- The creation of a non-motorized trail connecting Sandpoint, Ponderay and Kootenai, on the north shore of Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho, has been a vision of many for decades. The public used the shoreline for years with temporary permission of private owners. Following completion of the 2010 "Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail Concept Plan," a purchase agreement was reached with a key landholder. Over the next four years, waterfront was purchased through a combination of private and public dollars. The Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail say, "The concept plan, guided by NPS RTCA, was a crucial tool in raising nearly \$600,000 toward that effort." Additional funds and volunteer time have been spent on improvements so today a 1.5 mile segment is open. This success has spurred county-wide trail planning; a master plan has recently been completed for the Pend D'Oreille Bay Trail.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Idaho contact:

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